

REMARKS

In the present application, claims 1, 7-8, 13-20 and 27-34 are pending. Claim 27 has been amended. Claim 6 has been canceled herein, and claims 2-5, 9-12 and 21-26 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new matter has been added with the amendment to claim 27 since this claim has merely been amended into independent form. Thus, the amendment to claim 27 presents no new issues requiring further search or consideration.

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McArdle (U.S. Patent 5,747,416). Claim 6 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brantley (U.S. Patent 3,929,447). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

Claim 6 has been canceled herein. Thus, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are rendered moot. Withdrawal of these rejections is

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respectfully requested. Applicants submit that no other issues remain for this application.

Claim Objection/Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 27 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claims 1, 7, 8, 13-20, and 28-34 are indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

Claim 27 has been amended herein into independent form, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, it is believed that all of the pending claims of the present application are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

A full and complete response has been made to all issues as cited in the Office Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance issue for the present case.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

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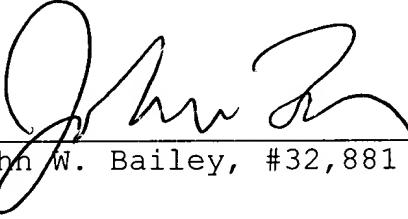
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overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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